

What is claimed is:

1           1.     An integrated media production security system comprising:  
2                     a database for storing records associated with a plurality of discreet  
3     media;  
4                     tracking stations for reading indicia on media for responding to arrival at  
5     and departure from the tracking station, said tracking station further comprising means  
6     for identifying an agent moving the media to or from the tracking station; and  
7                     a client for receiving information from said tracking station for providing  
8     records to said database.

1           2.     The system according to claim 1 wherein said database further comprises  
2     means for storing content information records associated with each discrete piece of  
3     media and wherein said database is provided with a software structure associating  
4     content records and movement records by media identification.

1           3.     The system of claim 2 further comprising a system administration client  
2     coupled for communicating with said database.

1           4.     The system according to claim 3 comprising a tracking station at a media  
2     vault.

1           5.     The system according to claim 4 wherein further stations at which the  
2     media is tracked comprising a recording station, a duplication station and a shipping and  
3     receiving station.

1           6.     The system according to claim 5 further comprising a video source unit  
2     selectively coupled to said duplication station and to said recording station and also  
3     further comprising an AV marking system and a recording deck to receive outputs from  
4     said AV marking system and said duplication and said recording station each providing a  
5     video source for said AV marking system.

1           7.     A system according to claim 6 wherein said client further provides means for  
2     providing data indicative of operations performed on selected media to said database.

1           8.     A system according to claim 7 wherein said video source unit comprises a  
2     hard drive, and wherein indicia for reading by a tracking station are affixed to said hard  
3     drive, wherein said tracking means further comprises means for reading indicia for said  
4     hard drive and wherein said database further comprises a data structure for storing  
5     information relative to said hard drive.

1           9.     An integrated media production security system comprising data means,  
2     communication means and production means, said production means handling discreet  
3     media, said data means comprising a database having data structures for storing records  
4     associated with discreet media input-output/application program interface means  
5     interfacing the database means to the communication means, said communication means  
6     comprising at least one client for receiving information associated with operations on the  
7     media and communicating with said database, and said production unit comprising  
8     means for tracking movement of media to or from stations said tracking means further  
9     comprising means for identifying the agency causing the movement of the media and  
10    further comprising station for performing operations on media, said client means  
11    receiving information indicative of said operation and providing records to said database  
12    indicative thereof.

1           10.    The system according to claim 9 wherein said stations each comprise  
2     scanning stations and also comprise client means.

1           11.    The system according to claim 10 wherein said client comprises a system  
2     administration station for communicating with said database.

1           12.    The system according to claim 11 wherein said communication system  
2     further comprises links to external systems and wherein the external systems are  
3     provided with tracking stations and client means providing information indicative of  
4     operations at each respective external system

1           13.    A method for an integrated media production security system comprising  
2     the steps of:  
3                 tracking movement of discreet media to and from tracking stations;  
4                 tracking an agent associated with each movement;

5 providing a data record indicative of the movement and agent to a  
6 database;  
7 providing to said database a record indicative of content associated with a  
8 discreet media identification;  
9 associating in said database records indicative of movement with a record  
10 indicative of content of the particular discreet media;  
11 further providing data indicative of an operation performed on said  
12 discreet media at a station associated with the record of movement of the discreet media.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein a recording and a duplication station are  
2 provided and further comprising:  
3 selectively duplicating video source on media at said duplication station  
4 or recording from a video source onto a recording media at a recording station and  
5 connecting an AV marking station to each of said recording stations and  
6 duplication station to steganographically encode the recording or duplication of said  
7 video source.

1 15. A system to steganographically encode media comprising:  
2 a video source unit for providing video to be recorded or duplicated;  
3 a recording deck for recording audio visual information in media;  
4 an audio visual (AV) marking system for encoding signals provided by  
5 said audio source;  
6 at least one station for coupling the signals provided by said video source  
7 unit for encoding by said AV marking system; and  
8 a station controller for controlling operations flow of the signals and  
9 operations on the media.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein said at least one station comprises a  
2 recording station and a duplicating station.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein said each AV marking system comprises  
2 a watermarking system, and wherein said controller couples said AV marking means to  
3 record aperiodically on each said media.

1           18.    A method for steganographically encoding media comprising:  
2                providing signals from a video source unit;  
3                coupling the signals to at least one station;  
4                connecting at said station the signals to an audio visual marking unit for  
5   encoding; and  
6                controlling the application of steganographic coding on the media.

1           19.    The method of claim 18 wherein said at least one station comprises a  
2   recording station and a duplicating station, and further comprising the step of selectively  
3   providing the signals to one of these stations.